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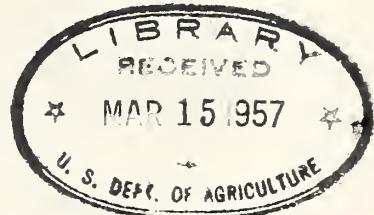
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES

April 1956

EGG PRODUCTION ESTIMATES AND REPORTS

The Department of Agriculture issues about 150 reports each year dealing with poultry and eggs. These reports are listed in the Schedule and Content of Crop and Livestock reports. Reports relating to the production of poultry and eggs of special interest to the shell egg industry are listed below.

1. Monthly Laying Flocks: layers; rate of lay; egg production; young chickens (monthly April 1, May 1, June 1); Potential layers (monthly August-January).
2. Hatchery Production: chicks and poult hatched; eggs in incubators first of month.
3. Liquid and Dried Egg Production.
4. Canned and Eviscerated poultry.
5. Chickens and Turkeys tested by official State agencies.
6. Poultry Slaughter.
7. Intended purchases of baby chicks (February).
8. Number and value of chickens on farms January 1.
9. Revised estimates issued annually.
 - a. Monthly egg production.
 - b. Young chickens and potential layers.
 - c. Hatchery production.
10. Chickens raised.
11. Farm production, disposition and income from chickens and eggs.
12. Prices received by farmers for eggs, feed prices, egg-feed price ratios and parity prices, monthly.



The reports listed above are available in the various States through the State Statisticians' offices and through the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The poultry slaughter report is available in the Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D. C. but not released in the State offices.

The statistical and reporting service is geared to furnish timely information on various phases and developments in the poultry industry as early as possible. The information upon which these estimates is based comes from producers, both farm flock and commercial; hatcheries; processing plants; regulatory agencies; and other miscellaneous sources.

The reporting service for egg laying flocks and egg production begins the calendar year with a report on inventories of chickens on hand January 1 by classes--hens, pullets and other chickens. Monthly crop reports provide estimates of the number of layers on hand during the month, rate of lay and total egg production. In January and October, the composition of flocks is published to show the number of hens, pullets of laying age and pullets not of laying age. The January estimates by classes are published in the annual report on livestock and poultry inventories issued in mid-February each year. The October estimates are published in the October crop report issued about October 10 each year.

To provide advance information on the size of the laying flock, a report is published in the February crop report on intentions to purchase baby chicks. The April, May and June monthly crop reports show the number of chicks and young chickens on hand on the first of each of those months.

Even more complete and timely is the number of chicks hatched for flock replacements now being reported in the monthly hatchery report. This is a new service started in 1955 when hatchery chick production was broken down to show separately broiler chicks and chicks for flock replacements. The monthly hatchery report also shows a breakdown for eggs in incubators on the first of the month. The monthly data on eggs set provide an indication of baby chick production for flock replacements 3 weeks later.

Data are collected monthly from State testing agencies from which a report is published on the number of chickens tested for production of chicks for flock replacements. This report is a running record of the potential supply of breeders for the production of hatching eggs and chicks.

A preliminary estimate of the number of chickens raised and to be raised during the year is issued in July. By that time, the main season for raising flock replacements is over. The preliminary report is an accurate indicator of young chickens raised for flock replacements.

Prices received by farmers for eggs are reported as of the 15th of each month. These prices, along with prices for feeds in the poultry ration, calculations of egg-feed price ratios, and parity prices are published around the end of each month in "Agricultural Prices".

A report is issued in April each year on farm production, disposition, cash receipts and gross income from chickens and eggs. The report covers the two preceding calendar years.

